

JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
**OCTOBER 20, 2000**  
AT THE JCA CENTRE, - 995 ARROW ROAD

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the association was held on October 20, 2000 at the JCA Centre.

The following members were present:

Mr. Herman Stewart	-	President
Ms. Valarie Steele	-	Vice President
Ms. Maxine Adams	-	Treasurer
Mr. Hector Gray	-	Executive Secretary
Ms. Claudette Cameron Stewart		Public Relations Committee Chair
Ms. Ruth Morris	-	Building Committee Chair
Ms. Barbara Thomas	-	Fundraising Committee Chair
Mr. Barrington Morrison	-	Education & Cultural Committee Chair
Ms. Pam Powell	-	Women's Committee Chair
Mr. Patrick Chambers	-	Youth Affairs Committee Chair

Regrets: Ms. Pauline Reid, Membership Services Committee Chair  
Ms. Elaine Thompson, Executive Director  
Mr. Leon Sutherland, Building Committee Chair.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The President called the meeting to order at the hour of 7:03 p.m.
2. WELCOME: The President welcomed the members present, and also welcomed Mr. Paul Green, President of the Universal Black Students Association and Ms. Lori-Anne Thompson of "Blue Print 4 Life", and two members of the Youth Affairs Committee, who had attended the meeting.
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:  
  
*Upon motion duly moved, seconded and carried unanimously, the agenda was amended to deal with the presentations regarding the Youth Affairs Committees request to be affiliated with the Universal Black Student's Association and "Blueprint 4 Life", as Item No. 6.*
4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

*Upon the question that the Minutes of the meeting of the board held on*

*September 15, 2000 be adopted, it was moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Powell, there being no errors or omissions therein:*

*CARRIED.*

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. Summer Camp:
2. Computers —

6. PRESENTATIONS.

Mr. Paul Green of The Universal Black Student's Association made a presentation in which he stated that the BSA is a youth based organization founded in 1993 as a support system for Black youth in high schools across Metropolitan Toronto, and which has expanded to serve colleges and universities across the GTA. Mr. Green mentioned some of the projects being carried out by the organization, such as a campaign titled "Rush The Vote" to encourage youth voter turnout in elections.

(Ms.) L. A. Thompson, also gave a brief explanation of the purpose of 'Blue Print 4 Life', which is to involve the youth in building a foundation composed of morals, values and beliefs through rap and hip-hop music, in order to divert their attention from the negative stereotype of some of the popular groups which tend to encourage violence and vulgarity.

After listening to the presentations, the board unanimously gave its approval to the Youth Group to ?????????

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. From Ms. Daphne Bailey, invitation to attend a "Cultural Night" at the North York Seniors Health Centre on November at 7:30 p.m., which was received and noted.
2. From No. 31 Division Community Police Liaison Committee re: Fundraising Dinner/Dance to be held on Friday, October 27/00 at LaContessa Banquet Hall. It was decided that two tickets be purchased at a cost of \$50.00 each, and that two members of the board attend this event.
3. From Ms. Hyacinth Wilson, a 'thank you' and update report on the



visit of students from Dupont Elementary School and St. Pius X Junior Choir from Kingston, Jamaica, which was received as information.

4. From the Black Action Defence Committee, regarding its Fourth Annual Awards on October 22/00 at the JCA Centre. It was decided that two tickets be purchased at a cost of \$50.00 and that two members of the board attend this function.
5. From the Arts and Letters Club, re: Invitation to attend a discussion on 'Human Ecology: Biomimicry and Beyond' at 14 Elm Street, Toronto on October 25/00, which was noted.
6. From the Harmony Movement, re: "2000 Harmony Award Banquet on November 16 at LeParc Banquet Hall in Thornhill, which was received and noted.
7. From the Jamaica Ex-Soldiers Association (Toronto Chapter) regarding their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Dance on November 4/00 at the Disciples Revival Church Hall, 30 Gordon McKay Road. It was decided that two members of the board attend.

## 8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### **STAFFING/ADMINISTRATION**

- . **Vira Stewart**, Manager for Youth & Family Services is leaving the JCA. Her experience and knowledge in the area of children's issues and legislation will be missed. Efforts are underway to hire a replacement.
- . **Stella Pinnock** has been hired as a part-time seniors' counsellor, to work on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 - 4. She will deliver social services for members of the Caribbean Canadian Seniors' club, and for any senior in the community who calls for help. She is already developing a client load - one of her first requests was for help with housing for a senior with Alzheimer's. She has indicated that there is potential for senior's funding through the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. There are some implications for space, as funders like to see a senior's environment and ambience appropriate to their needs.

### **PROGRAMS**

- . **Summer Camp Discontinued:** Per a decision taken at the Management Committee, on the recommendation of the Executive Director, the summer camp will be discontinued indefinitely until the JCA can afford to make the community centre more suitable for children's recreation. The summer camp was successful this year as a culturally useful program for children's



recreation. The summer camp was successful this year as a useful program for children in our community. Its achievements including a bridging of the generations by allowing the seniors and camp children to interact. The camp's potential as a source of youth and future membership for the JCA is recognized, but so is the immediate reality of needing the building for use primarily as a banquet facility in order to raise funds for paying down the mortgage.

- . **Transition Program Delayed:** Efforts continue to obtain a meeting with senior correctional officials in order to obtain endorsement of the program to help Caribbean young offenders who are nearing release from jail. As a result, we have delayed the start of the program until the new year.
- . **Demand for Freshies Video Presentations:** In October, presentations on the Freshies video were made for conferences of the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), and for the Toronto District School Board. Further presentations are scheduled for November. Many people are finding the video informative about the issues Caribbean and especially Jamaican youth encounter on migrating to Canada.
- . **Police Volunteers Needed for LIP:** LIP has begun its school program in Topcliff, Gracefield and St. Martha's Elementary Schools, and has lined up Gosford for the new year. However, the program continues to experience a lack of police volunteers, which was the situation for the social housing pilot test in September at Firgrove Community Centre. We continue to inform 31 Division of the need for volunteers. The LIP coordinators will attend the 31 Division fundraiser on Oct. 27 and continue to press for volunteer officers.
- . **Funder Requirements Increasing for Violence Against Women Program:** The Government's response to public concern about domestic abuse has been to introduce more requirements for VAW programs. More stringent policies have been introduced regarding the reporting of serious occurrences. VAW services are now being evaluated, with questionnaires having to be submitted electronically to a password-protected e-mail at the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Each VAW agency now has to refer a certain number of landlords to local housing authorities as potential sources of housing for abused women - except that landlords are unwilling to take part in the initiative. (The JCA has been assigned 14 landlords, about 5 have been referred, but none have followed through with housing). The VAW sector is pushing back at the government about these requirements, especially as they are not accompanied by extra salary or administration dollars.
- . **Staff Retreat/Funding Proposal Season:** October to February is the

season for funding proposals. The submission for funding from the City of Toronto for the next two years is becoming due. A staff planning retreat is being organized for the second weekend in November, to determine program priorities for the coming year. We welcome the participation of any interested board members.

#### **BOARD SUPPORT**

- . **Trudeau Memorial** - staff support given in mail-outs, obtaining speakers and faxing to media.
- . **Strategic Planning** - in anticipation of an imminent board retreat, a strategic planning discussion paper will be prepared concerning the vision and future of JCA's social services within the framework of the organization

#### **COMMUNITY**

- . **Thanksgiving Dinner** - was well attended, though the seniors were away on a bus trip. A wide cross section of people attended, not just those who are under-housed or otherwise under-privileged. Families, singles, homeless and others came to partake of the Caribbean-flavoured Thanksgiving. Thanks to all the staff and others who organized and carried out the event, and to Frank Wallace for providing music.
- . **Rush the Vote** - The JCA is part of a community coalition that is trying to get young people to vote in the coming municipal election.
- . **Supreme Court Case**: The JCA is part of a coalition with the African Canadian Legal Clinic that is trying to get permission to intervene in a custody case involving a biracial child. The coalition's position is that race should be a factor automatically considered when determining custody matters for mixed race children, although it doesn't have to be the main consideration.
- . **Black History Month**: A staff committee has been formed to plan Black History Month for next February. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. So far, events include a forum for newcomer youth, a family conference and the presentation ceremony for the Marcus Garvey chair. We will be contacting other agencies to ensure proper coordination and welcome board members' participation.
- . **United Way**: The CN Tower stair climb takes place on Saturday, Oct., 21, starting at 10 a.m. You don't need a pledge form to participate. It takes about ½ to 45 minutes to climb the tower.



*In the absence of the Executive Director, the foregoing report was received and noted.*

*Motion - re: Vira's Gift.*

9. EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Visions of Science Club at the Jamaican Canadian Association will be changing the format of its operations and schedule commencing January 2001.

The winter session will commence January 13<sup>th</sup> to March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001, and the spring session will commence March 24<sup>th</sup> to May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Exhibits will be displayed at Visions of Science Symposium, University of Toronto in June 2001.

A nominal fee of \$20.00 per student will be charged at each session to offset the cost of materials, honorarium for volunteers, and facility rentals. This year students will be working collaboratively in groups to manufacture soap and artist paint; they will extract essential oils from plants working under the guidance of professionals from the scientific community, and volunteers from post-secondary institutions.

Members of the Education Committee are in the process of organizing four seminars to commence in January 2001. Speakers with varied background and experience will be presenting on topics ranging from: Real Estate (collective ownership), Citizenship and Customs, Values, Influences and Peers, and Money Management. More details on these and other upcoming events will be posted on JCA's web site, and in community newspapers for public information.

We are looking for volunteers who will assist Scouts Canada to organize a Boy Scout movement which will come under the umbrella of the JCA. The Executive Vice President of Scouts Canada, Thomas Tang, is prepared to offer advice and provide manpower to start the movement which will provide excellent leadership training and discipline for our young people.

We would like to start our state of the art web design lab at the JCA. However, the computers currently in the classrooms are not equipped to carry out the functions of this ambitious project. We are appealing to those who believe in free enterprise and the proper pursuit of education to come over to the JCA and help us. Show me a nation of learners and I'll

show you a nation of leaders.

*Mr. Morrison moved, seconded by Ms. Cameron-Stewart, that the report be adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

10. BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Building Committee now have five teams. We are still looking for volunteers. Goal is to have at least six on each team.

Listed below are work that has been done and work in progress>

1. Member's Lounge floor is now tiled. The tiler was called to fix unfinished borders.
2. The floor in both banquet halls have been cleaned and polished.
3. Garbage was removed at the agreed cost.
4. Quotation from the plumber was received.
5. Kwik Kopy had a heating problem and the serviceman had to be called.
6. Quotation was also received regarding snow plowing.
7. Kitchen sink drain needs clearing. We haven't received any quote as yet.

*In the absence of the building committee chair, the board approved the quotation from L.D.S. Landscaping & Snow Plowing for the JCA property in the amount of \$1,350.00, plus GST., and requested the chair of the building committee to obtain at least two additional quotations for the repair of the toilets and clearing of drains, etc. At the JCA building.*

11. CARIBBEAN CANADIAN SENIORS CLUB REPORT

The Seniors Choir will participate at the late rime Minister Trudeau's memorial service at the request of the Executive Director on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2000. The choir will also be performing at the late Mr. Russell's memorial service on November 12, where we will be accepting donations.

Trips: The week-end trip to Akron, Ohio, was a success.



The Christmas Shopping trip is on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

The seniors' trip to see the lights will be on December 16. It includes dinner, entertainment and the lights at Niagara Falls.

The Seniors' Club has given a donation of One Thousand (\$1,000.00) to help with the maintenance of the building.

Again the seniors are asking that when the small kitchen is rented out, that the renters are asked to leave the kitchen as well as the oven and stove in a clean and tidy condition.

*Ms. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Morrison, that the report be adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

## 12. YOUTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

On Friday, October 13, 2000 the Youth Affairs Committee had its last scheduled meeting. At that meeting support for the alliance with Blue Print 4 Life and Black Students Association was ratified with trepidation.

We revised the topic of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Friday Fun Nite. The suggestion was tabled that a name change should be adopted. This was ratified and from henceforth will be called Zoonie Friday. The group felt that we should try where possible to have revenue neutral events. (i.e. in terms of financial support from the JCA, YES Ms. Steele, we too are seeing that huge mortgage).

For the month of November the second Friday event will be cancelled so that we can put our 100% support behind M.A.U.P. (Millennium Urban Arts Project) launch. This launch will be held on Friday, November 24, 2000. We feel that this will help to advance our agenda.

We are once again asking that our youth membership form be placed in the In Focus and that all members continue to encourage their youthful family members and friends to be a part of our initiatives.

For the remainder of this year our agenda is loosely defined but for next year we are planning to have a major conference to address the issue of violence in our community. We are also planning our major fundraiser event / talent show and dance with the proceeds going to game proofing the multi-used halls.

*Mr. Chambers moved, seconded by Mr. Morrison, that the report be*



*adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

13. WOMEN'S COMMITTEE REPORT

**BLACK WOMEN SPEAK-UP-DAY**

The Black Women Speak-Up Day spearheaded by the JCA Women's Committee, in conjunction with the Black Women's Coalition was held on September 30, at the JCA Centre.

The Speak-Up Day was a success with 50 persons in attendance. The format of the programme was a panel presentation followed by a Speak-Up session. The following topics were discussed: Poverty, Violence Against Women and racism. During the Speak-Up session participants had the opportunity to express their views and concerns on the identified issues. This event was a live Radio Broadcast courtesy of CHRY Radio. Our thanks to CHRY for providing the coverage.

**WORLD MARCH**

On Sunday, October 15, women across Canada joined women around the world to demand that our governments adopt effective measures to end poverty and violence against women. The Black Women's Coalition participated in the march and rally on Parliament Hill.

**OTHER MARCH ACTIVITIES**

October 16, Canadian Women's Tribunal on Poverty and Violence

October 17, Canadian Women lobby the Federal Government, leaders and M.P.'s to push forward demands presented at the rally.

October 17, An International delegation of women presented demands to the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, to eliminate poverty and violence on an international scale.

Although the World March activities are over, it is incumbent on all women's groups and other advocates of women to continue to lobby the government and monitor the changes to ensure the demands are met.

*Ms. Powell moved, seconded by Ms. Morris, moved that the report be adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

14. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT

The PR Committee is preparing the November issue of the In Focus.

Working with Barb Thomas, Hyacinth Wilson, Errol Bonner and Elaine Thompson to host the community memorial for Pierre Elliot Trudeau. Sent various correspondence to the media and interviewed on CHRY. Responses so far have been great.

Thanks to Maurice for going above and beyond to help with the memorial for Pierre Elliot Trudeau.

I continue to attend the Blacks and Jews in Dialogue meeting on behalf of JCA. Committees have been set up and directions are now being put in place. The Youth Affairs Committee has held its first meeting and plans are being put in place to hold a community forum with youth in an effort to forge better relations and to identify community youth with leadership potential. I will keep Patrick abreast.

Continue to liaise with president and vice president regularly. Attended various events on JCA's behalf.

*Ms. Cameron- Stewart moved, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the report be adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

15. TREASURER'S REPORT

Unaudited Statement of Operations

<u>BUILDING</u>	<u>Aug-00</u>	<u>Jul-00</u>
<u>Revenues</u>		
Rental Income - Hall	\$ 6,640	\$ 11,188
Rental Income - Tenant	649	1,945
Donations Corporate	640	10,633
Donations - Individuals	2,783	670
Miscellaneous Income	<u>720</u>	<u>585</u>
<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>11,432</u>	<u>25,021</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 776
Mortgage	9,971	9,862
Electricity, Heating Water	2,002	1,758



Repairs & Maintenance	1,611	2,658
Cleaning	<u>2,625</u>	<u>320</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>16,209</b>	<b>15,374</b>
<b>Excess revenues over expenditures</b>	<b><u>4,777</u></b>	<b><u>9,647</u></b>

#### CORE

##### Revenues

Fundraising Committee	24,733	4,235
Fundraising - Other	13,585	12,560
Walk-A-Thon	190	1,668
Donations - United Way	1,820	3,519
Membership Dues	365	290
Miscellaneous Income	<u>167</u>	<u>65</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>40,860</u></b>	<b><u>22,337</u></b>

##### Expenditures

Fundraising - Dances	0	500
Fundraising - Other	0	28,524
Fundraising - General	17,667	25
Donations	448	120
Members Services & Newsletter	854	2,363
Office & general	1,444	1,518
Staff development	<u>0</u>	<u>124</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>20,445</u></b>	<b><u>33,174</u></b>
<b>Excess revenues over expenditures</b>	<b><u>20,415</u></b>	<b><u>(10,837)</u></b>

*Ms. Adams moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, that the report be adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

#### 16. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Management Committee meeting - held on October 12, 2000:

**Summer Camp:** JCA will no longer run a summer camp at the centre. Due to the problems encountered at this year's camp we took the position that if the JCA was going to run a summer camp it would have to be out of another location, i.e. a school or a community centre. Investigations done by the Executive Director indicates that the cost for schools are extremely high; community centres already have agreements with other agencies, and JCA does not have the administrative and social services capacity to operate from another location.

**Child-minding space:** It has been requested that one of the classrooms

used by the parenting programme be turned into a permanent child-minding space, redecorated with shelves installed on the wall for toys.

**Youth & Family Services:** Vira Stewart, manager of this programme has resigned from the JCA effective October 30, 2000. Options were presented as to how her position will be replaced and final details will be made available when a final decision is made.

**Increase in Salary:** Maurice Wraith's salary is currently paid by JCA and the United Way. It has been increased from \$17,000 to \$19,500.

**Group Benefits:** Vision care has been added to the benefits given to staff of the JCA.

**Senior's Counsellor:** Stella Pinnock is a part-time counsellor with the Caribbean Canadian Seniors' Club.

**Computer Purchase:** Research is currently being done to determine whether to purchase or rent five computers for staff and one for the board.

**Vice President's Role:** There is a communication issue between the Executive Director and I that was discussed at the Management Committee. Herman, the ED and I will be meeting to straighten out this matter.

*Ms. Steele moved, seconded by Ms. Cameron-Stewart, moved that the report be adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

17. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Main activities for the month endin October 20/00

**Fundraising:**

Fundraising raffle wind-up.

- . Sent thank you letters to sponsors.
- . Organized appreciation reception for zone coordinators and top volunteers.
- . Arranged for \$50,000 towards construction loan on October 01/00.

**Advocacy:**



- . Spent considerable time helping the family of the baby Efficia Mitchell who died in Etobicoke General Hospital after 2-1/4 hours wait in emergency room
- . Did newa conference, sent letters to Ministry of Health, Chief Coroner and the hospital.
- . Accompanied family to Coroner's office to do interview.
- . Made representations on behalf of JCA member before Human Rights Commission.
- . Representation on behalf of two non-members who lost their jobs because they filed complaints against their employer with the Human Rights Commission.

**Actions:**

- New date for orientation.
- Decision needed on up-grade of members' lounge.
- Computer for Marcus Garvey Resource Library.

*The President moved, seconded by Ms. Steele, that the report be adopted:*

*CARRIED.*

18. NEW (OTHER) BUSINESS:

There was no items of new (or other) business to be discussed.

19. ADJOURNMENT:

*Upon motion moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Morrison, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 10:22 p.m.*

Note: In keeping with the usual practice, there will be no board meeting in the month of December, unless called by the President, if deemed warranted.

APPROVED:

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HERMAN STEWART  
President

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HECTOR A. GRAY  
Executive Secretary.